

Identification and Record Requirements for Moving Cattle

Information for Dealers, Saleyards and Owners

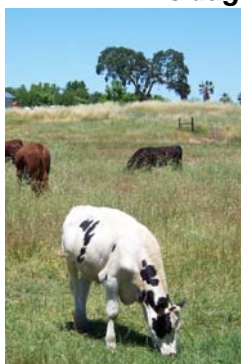
Cattle moving within California may be inspected en route or after arrival, and must meet brand inspection requirements. Documents must be presented for inspection upon request of a government official. Female dairy cattle and female beef cattle sold for breeding must be **vaccinated for brucellosis** and be tattooed in the right ear with the official brucellosis tattoo.

California cattle dealers must:

- Be licensed with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Market Enforcement.
- Maintain records of each animal sufficient to identify the animal, the seller, and the buyer for two (2) years, and be available for examination and copying upon request by the Department.

Cattle moving into California require:

- **Entry permits** - for all female cattle, dairy bulls more than 6 months and beef bulls more than 18 months of age. No diversion is allowed from the permitted destination. Each load must have a copy of the documents required for entry to present for inspection upon request.
- **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection** - for dairy females more than 4 months of age, beef females and dairy bulls more than 6 months of age, and beef bulls more than 18 months of age.
- **Approved identification** - for all cattle tested and all cattle two (2) years of age or over, except steers, spayed heifers, and cattle moved during normal ranching operations without change of ownership.
- **Brucellosis vaccination** - for female cattle, unless entering for immediate slaughter or feeding in a registered feedlot before slaughter.
- **Brucellosis test** - for cattle from states that are not brucellosis "Class Free".
- **Trichomonosis test** - for bulls 18 months of age and over.
- **Tuberculosis test** - for all dairy breeding cattle more than 6 months of age, and beef breeding cattle more than 6 months of age from states not "Class Free".



- Registered purebred animals not moving to slaughter may be identified in a manner acceptable to the breed association.
- Documents, signed by the owner/shipper, stating:
 - a) Origin
 - b) Destination
 - c) Number of animals
 - d) Name and address of owner
 - e) Name and address of previous owner*
 - f) Name and address of the shipper
 - g) Identifying numbers. The numbers may be maintained by the approved stockyard if cattle move directly from the yard to a recognized slaughtering establishment.
- Documents shall be delivered with the cattle to the management of the stockyard, slaughtering establishment or consignee, and shall be available for inspection upon request by a government representative at any time within the year from the date of their delivery.

Cattle moved interstate from a farm directly to a recognized slaughtering establishment (or approved stockyard for sale to a recognized slaughtering establishment):

- May be individually identified and the numbers recorded on the establishment's receiving document **upon arrival**, if accompanied by documents signed by the owner/shipper, stating:
 - a) Origin
 - b) Destination
 - c) Number of animals
 - d) Name and address of owner
 - e) Name and owner of previous owner*
 - f) Name and address of the shipper.
- May be identified by a registered brand and accompanied by a brand inspection certificate.
- Do not require individual identification if the slaughtering establishment maintains records of ownership by lot.
- Do not require an owner-shipper statement when moved from a farm where they have been for more than four months, and the farm has not had any cattle from any other premises within those four months.

*If ownership changed in the prior 4 months

Federal interstate requirements for cattle:

- Have approved identification:
 - An approved eartag or backtag
 - A brand registered with an official brand agency and accompanied by an official brand inspection certificate

CDFA Animal Health Branch	
Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
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USDA/APHIS/VS 916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690	
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